THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 8th July 1952.

The House met in the Assembly Chambers, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at half past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Rajaji Hall.

* 51 *Q.*—SRI T. VISWANATHAM: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any amount is collected by way of rent when Rajaji Hall is given for the use of Congress Legislature Party; and

(*b*) if so, the amount collected during the last six years?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"(*a*) & (*b*) No rent is being collected when political parties in the Legislature are permitted to use the Rajaji Hall."

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SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"May I have an assurance, Sir, from the Hon. the Chief Minister that the Hall will be freely lent to all political parties?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"Sir, he can draw that assurance from the present practice."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI:—"Sir, is it not a fact that the Hall is lent not only to the Legislature parties but also to the Congress Party for holding meetings of the Congress Party?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"Sir, I must say that questions in relation to minor events of a past period are difficult to answer by way of supplementaries."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI:—"Will the Hon. the Chief Minister give an assurance that the Hall will be lent to all political parties in the future?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"Sir, if the distinction made between political parties and Legislature parties is kept in mind, I am sorry I cannot make promises that it will be allowed to all political parties. At present we have decided that we should use this Hall for State Government functions, for meetings of important Government and quasi-Government committees and conferences, whether Central or State, public meetings of a non-controversial and important character in which all sections of the public are

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eligible to and may in fact participate, for instance Sheriff's meeting for collecting funds and assistance for flood relief, etc. Now it has become unfortunately by convention an adjunct of the Legislative Assembly. It is practically a part of the Legislative Assembly with its overflow of ground accommodation. I do not think that I will be able to stop this in view of the vicinity of the Hall although it is different from the Assembly buildings. Therefore we have to use it for the parties in the Legislature and for necessary purposes in connexion with Legislative work."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—"May I know, Sir, why it is called Rajaji Hall'?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—"I am glad, Sir, the question is put. I am not aware of the reason at all." (Laughter.)

Extent of waste lands in the occupation of agricultural labourers.

* 52 Q.—SRI G. RAMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many pattas for Government assessed or unassessed waste lands have been issued to the agricultural labourers or landless poor since 1948 till now; and

(b) the total extent of such waste lands in the occupation of agricultural labourers or landless poor in the State and also the total number of such persons?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"(a) & (b) The information is not available here and the obtaining of information by special references to each and every district for answering this most comprehensive question would involve great time and labour wholly out of proportion to the value of the information so obtained."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—"Are the Government aware, Sir. that a good number, as a matter of fact, thousands of agricultural labourers, both Harijans and others, are involved in this question and they are being evicted even though they have been occupying it for the last 24 years? Will the Government take this into consideration and issue a special Ordinance or pass an Act so that they may not be evicted from their lands?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—"The Government are not aware of the fact that the hon. Member just mentioned but I will go into the question."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—"Will the collection of the statistics help the Government to know the number of landless labourers as against landed labourers?"